

Center of Science Industry (COSI)  
**COSI Academy**

Goal: increasing public understanding

Summary of Program: COSI Academy is a launching pad for aspiring scientists and engineers, which provides an opportunity for motivated high school students to benefit from an intriguing array of scientific tools, places and minds. COSI Academy is a professionally-supported, member-led program of high-school students that meet monthly to explore topics in science, math, and technology. There are long-term challenges based on real-world challenges provided by mentor companies and established scientists. During monthly meetings, COSI Academy members discuss current scientific issues and work on challenges with local science-oriented organizations. Members visit different professional facilities from cutting-edge medical research labs to roller coaster design facilities!

Purpose of Program: The purpose of COSI Academy is for like-minded teenagers to investigate science in unique ways that are not possible ordinarily. COSI Academy serves the accelerated high school students by involving the members in many experience that motivate a desire to towards a better understanding of science, industry, health, and history. COSI Academy focuses on quality of the experience for the Members rather than a large quantity of participants.

Accomplishments / results: Far Out Expeditions to **Utah** where we visited a roller coaster design company, hiked along fault lines, and toured Olympic training venues; and **Florida** where we visited behind the scenes at Kennedy Space Center, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Epcot Center. Mentor relationships-- Ashland Chemical, Battelle, NASA, COSI, (current) and Lucent Technologies, The United States Geological Survey, and the Byrd Polar Research Center (past). Two papers were published in scientific journals.

Plans for the next 12 months: Upcoming Far Out Expedition to Santa Fe, New Mexico in the works for June, 2003. Pinnacle event – June, 2003 (wrap up of Challenge projects with Mentors, etc.)